

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P R 181116Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7318
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 14309

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE, ASEC
SUBJECT: GALLAGHER AND DYKES

1. AT EMBASSY'S REQUEST, FRENCH EMBASSY
TRIED OVER LAST WEEKEND TO ARRANGE DCM'S MEETING WITH LOCAL MOSLEM
STREET GANG LEADER IBRAHIM QULAYLAT FOR PURPOSE OF PUTTING MORE
PRESSURE ON ISSAM AL'ARAB TO RELEASE GALLAGHER AND DYKES.
AFTER REQUEST HAD BEEN RELAYED HIM THROUGH HIS LIEUTENANTS,
QULAYLAT INVITED FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE IN AND SAID HE HAD HAD
DIFFICULT TIME DECIDING WHAT TO DO. HIS OWN PEOPLE WERE NOT IN-
VOLVED IN ANY WAY WITH GALLAGHER AND DYKES. HE WOULD HAVE
LIKED TO MEET AMERICAN EMBASSY REP AND TALK ABOUT SITUATION
IN GENERAL. HOWEVER, HIS GROUP OF NASSERITES IS ALLIED WITH
OTHER GROUPS OF THE LEFT UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF JUMBLATT AND WORK WITH
PLO. HE THEREFORE COULD NOT AGREE TO SUCH MEETING WITHOUT COORDIN-
ATING CONCURRENCE FROM THE OTHERS. HE SUGGESTED THAT FRENCH
MAY WISH INSTEAD TO MAKE A N APPROACH THROUGH THEIR USUAL
"INTERLOCUTEURS". FRENCH TAKE THIS TO MEAN THE PLO.

2. DCM THANKED FRENCH DCM FOR HIS EFFORTS AND LEFT OPEN
POSSIBILITY THAT WE MIGHT REQUEST FRENCH EMBASSY ACT AS
INTERMEDIARY WITH QULAYLAT TO URGE HIS INTERVENTION FOR RE-
LEASE OF GALLAGHER AND DYKES BY ISSAM AL'ARAB. WE ARE
HOLDING OFF FOR THE MOMENT TO SEE WHAT OTHER LEADS YIELD.
(THERE IS OF COURSE NO REPEAT NO QUESTION OF DCM MEETING WITH ANY
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REP OF PLO.)

3. FRENCH DM HIMSELF SUGGESTED WE MAY BE INTERSTED IN
HAVING THIS QUESTION RAISED BY COUVE DE MURVILLE AFTER HE
BEGINS HIS VISIT HERE WEDNESDAY. WE REPLIED IN THE AFFIRMA-
TIVE AND WILL FOLLOW UP AS NECESSARY.

4. MEANWHILE SEPARATE EFFORTS TO GET AT ARAB THROUGH
JUMBLATT (TRIGGERED BY DATT) PRODUCED STATEMENT BY
ARAB TO JUMBLATT'S REPRESENTATIVE THIS MORNING (NOV 18)
THAT ATARB'S MEN HAD ORIGINALLY PICKED UP GALLAGHER AND
DYKES BUT HAVE SINCE TURNED THEM OVER TO HABBASH
(PFLP). JUMBLATT'S REP HAS SCHEDULED MEETING WITH
HABBASH OR HABBASH REP FOR THIS AFTERNOON.
GODLEY

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